is further sub allocted by Additional Directorate General of Financial Planning. The funds for publicity is spent on printing to Sainik Samachar in 13 different Indian languages and media publicity of all Defence related activities that are conducted by Ministry of Defence, three Services and Coast Guard and all Inter-Services Organizations. These include activities e.g., media tours, organizing press conferences, conducting Defence Correspondent's Courses etc. The funds are also utilized for office expenses, hospitality for media and audio-visual services. No separate account for each service/organization is maintained in this regard. The personnel of DPR are drawn from different organisations and their pay and allowances are paid by their respective organizations. However, transport support to a large extent is provided by the Forces. The amount allocated to Directorate of Public Relations for media publicity during last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been Rs. 250 lakhs each year and actual expenditure for these years have been Rs. 226 lakhs, Rs. 205 lakhs and Rs. 233 lakhs respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no dedicated budget for Army Liaison Cell. Funds are allotted internally by Army as per need.

Lower Defence Budget

4479. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although India has the fourth largest military in the world, Indian Defence spending over the years has been in the region of 2.5 per cent of GDP, while Pakistans' military budget is around 4 per cent of GDP and unofficial estimates of Chinese military budget is also the same;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the most striking ommission in this budget is that no separate provision has been made for the proposed Aerospace Command and this issue is particularly important against the backdrop of China's recent anti-satellite missile testing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) While there are varying estiamtes about Pakistan's and China's Defence expenditure, India's Defence expenditure has been in the region of 2.3% in the last ten years.

(b) and (c) There is no decision of the Government so far to set up Aerospace Command. However, adequate measures are in place to address concerns of national security keeping in view the changing threat perception.

Civilian casualties in firing range in Uttarakhand

†4480. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several civilians were killed in straying of bullets during practice exercises and on explosion of grenades later in various firing ranges of Army in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the total number of such incidents over the years, with number of casualties therein;

(c) whether there is a plan to give job to a person each of the affected family in Army; and

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to increase compensation given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Since the creation of Uttarakhand State, one such incident has been reported at Raipur Field Firing Range, Dehradun in April, 2007, in which one civilian was killed and two injured.

(c) There is no such provision under the existing policy.

(d) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Defence deals between India and Israel

4481. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.